



Riverside General Plan Program

Education Subcommittee Meeting Thursday, June 5, 2003

On Thursday, June 5, 2003, City of Riverside Planning staff and the General Plan consultant team led by Cotton/Bridges/Associates and MIG held a meeting with the Education Subcommittee. Invitees included representatives from the Riverside Unified School District, Alvord Unified School District, Riverside City College, UC Riverside, Cal Baptist College, La Sierra University, and the County Office of Education. Attendees included:

Mike Fine, Riverside Unified School District
Virginia MacDonald, Riverside Community College
Dr. Jock Fischer, Riverside County Office of Education

The consultant team provided an overview of the General Plan Program and summarized the community visioning process conducted to date. Participants were asked to identify how to best pursue the City's vision relative to education in the context of the following vision themes:

- A. How we work
- B. How we play
- C. How we live
- D. How we get around
- E. How we learn

The comments of the attendees are provided on the following pages:

How we work

RUSD is one of the largest employers in the City.

RUSD, like other school districts, has difficulties attracting and retaining good teachers. However, the District has developed a good relationship with Cal Baptist College to hire teachers from the College upon graduation. Partnerships like these benefit the City.

RCC is working very hard to train skilled workers and place them in the community.

Examples include:

- ☐ Expanded Nursing program, working in concert with CSU Fullerton
- ☐ Putting an automotive mechanics school near the Riverside Auto Center

How we play

How we live

The City needs to make sure that housing is available for teachers and that the community is attractive and offers a high-quality life style to prospective employees.

Help improve residential neighborhoods as a means of raising the quality of life for people looking to move to and work in Riverside.

The colleges and universities have great arts and culture programs and can help promote arts and culture throughout the community.

Look for ways to build child-care centers into the schools. Consider conditioning subdivision maps for such or establishing assessment districts.

Establish strong joint-use arrangements among the various school districts and other educational institutions.

Push for creative joint use in new neighborhoods.

How we get around

A grid street system is most helpful in maintaining a successful busing program.

Place public institutions near transit facilities.

Push for grade separations at railroad crossings for school children safety and improved efficiency of the street network. But maintain adequate pedestrian crossings as well.

Access and parking around schools is always a problem. The City and districts need to coordinate with planning and management.

How we learn

RCC finds itself physically constrained at the current campus. To expand to accommodate current student needs, RCC would like to build up the campus, but neighbors have objections.

RUSD needs new school sites, particularly in the Downtown/East side area and outlying developing areas. The General Plan needs to recognize that schools are part of the critical community infrastructure and to plan for them accordingly.

In the Downtown/East side, RUSD would like to build two new schools and would consider the Market Street corridor. Also, the standard model for building a new school does not need to be followed. These could be urban schools with a joint-use park site.

RUSD has a critical need for new school elementary and middle school sites in the Alta Cresta area. The City hasn't fully cooperated with RUSD regarding the timing of housing and school development. Strong policies are needed regarding this issue. Annexations need to be coordinated with RUSD's ability to provide schools.

Put schools where infrastructure already exists to minimize costs to the various districts in new school construction.

Magnet school programs can be planned in conjunction and cooperatively with other initiatives, such as the creation of an arts school with an art museum.

Charter schools need to be addressed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Schools are a focal point of a neighborhood. Rather than bus kids to far-off schools, encourage the building of community and neighborhood through the schools. This helps tremendously with parental involvement in the schools.

The City and schools together need to address pre-kindergarten educational needs, as well as the needs of children who do not perform well in a traditional school setting.

We need a community connected by technology. Deliver school content to wired community centers.

Other comments

The Police Department's on-campus school resource officers (funded by the City) represent tremendous resource. We must keep this program funded.